

STATEMENT BY LEVITT & SONS, INC.

On February 9, 1960, the Supreme Court of New Jersey handed down a decision holding that the state law against discrimination is valid and constitutional. Under this law it is forbidden to discriminate against any person in the sale of houses on the ground of race, creed, color, national origin or ancestry.

On February 15 the Supreme Court of New Jersey temporarily stayed enforcement of the law pending an appeal to the United States Supreme Court. That stay will expire on April 15th. We believe that a final determination of the constitutional issues in the case should be obtained from the United States Supreme Court in order to settle these questions once and for all, and we propose to take all necessary steps to accomplish this.

However, there can be no assurance that the United States Supreme Court will accept the case for review or, even if it does, that a further stay of enforcement of the New Jersey state law can be obtained beyond April 15. As a matter of fact, even if it should be possible to get a further stay and even if the United States Supreme Court does accept the case for review, it is generally recognized that sooner or later the present New Jersey law, or some other law substantially like it, will be upheld and enforced, no matter how the present litigation

turns out and that sooner or later some Negro families will move into Levittown. In view of all the foregoing facts it appears that this development will take place in the near future, probably this summer.

Under these circumstances, it would clearly seem to be appropriate that the community as a whole, and its responsible public officials and community leaders, start now to prepare and plan for acceptance of this development so that integration, which is about to begin, be accomplished in an orderly and law-abiding way. One method of getting such a program under way would be the establishment by the township government of a Council on Human Relations consisting of representative citizens of the community. We are ready to do everything in our power to cooperate with such a body in the achievement of its goal.